

reimbursed for their business losses by receiving a rebate for taxes paid in the prior 2 years—or 3 years in cases in which there is a natural disaster. Well, we are facing a large economic disaster that can really sink us in rural America.

What I am proposing—and I will be shortly introducing a bill to do so—I propose that family farmers be allowed the option to get a rebate from the taxes that they paid over the past 10 years, covering up to \$200,000 in operating losses rather than the 2 years that is allowed under current law.

Many farmers cannot receive a rebate for their operating losses because they were not able to make any taxable profits in the last couple of years. By being able to go back 10 years, we will allow these farmers to be able to get a rebate next year and then limit it to \$200,000 so it would be available to all family farms, up to a limit of \$200,000 in net operating losses.

The benefit would only go to farmers whose families are actively engaged in farming and whose business activity is mostly farming. The amount of the rebate would be dependent on the amount of the loss and the tax rate paid by farmers for the paid taxes that are being restored.

The provision I am proposing would cover losses occurring in both 1998 or 1999.

If passed this year, farmers would be able to calculate their losses early next year and receive a rebate from the IRS for the taxes paid in earlier years very soon thereafter. This proposal would provide a significant amount of relief when it is needed early next year. It would help many farmers acquire the funds they need, as I said, to get the fields prepared and get the feed and fertilizer and bills paid so they can continue on next year.

I might add that there is some precedent for this. There was a case in 1997 where Amtrak was allowed to use net operating losses of their predecessor railroads going back over 20 years in the past. So there is precedent for this. If we can do it for Amtrak, I think certainly we ought to be able to do it for our family farmers. I am hopeful at some point this fall either under a tax bill, if we are going to have one, or under some other vehicle, that we can at least put this provision in.

I know my colleague from Iowa has another provision that would allow farmers to invest some of their profits for up to 5 years without being taxed until the money is used in poorer years, which is a great provision, one I also hope gets through.

Right now, the farmers are facing the fact that they don't have any money. I think maybe the two coupled together will get them some funds. If they went ahead and invested and used a provision of my colleague from Iowa, we might have a situation to help get some of the farmers through the next couple of years.

I just wanted to bring that to the attention of Senators. I hope to be intro-

ducing that very shortly. Again, I don't mean to belabor it, but we are seeing really bad times out there. I used these charts last week. I will use them again in case other Senators may be watching that didn't watch last week. Since July 16, wheat, corn, and soybeans are all down—I used central Illinois only as a measuring point—21 percent decline in the past 6 weeks in corn, 21 percent decline in soybeans in the last 6 weeks, and a 13 percent decline in the past 6 weeks in hard red winter wheat in Kansas City. We see no signs this will be alleviated any time soon. It looks like we will have a record crop of soybeans this year, a record crop, and probably the second or third largest corn crop we have ever had. So this will be hanging over the marketplace. We need to do everything we can.

Again, I hope that we will have some provisions very soon that will remove the caps on the loan rates and even provide emergency provisions for the Secretary to be able to pay storage payments to farmers, to store some of that grain so that they don't have to dump it this fall. They can keep it until next year. Maybe the Asian economy will come back; maybe there won't be very good weather next year, whatever; maybe the prices will come back next year. Let the farmer have the freedom to market that grain at some point down the line rather than just dumping it on the market this year.

There are other provisions that we will be talking about, but I think those are the major ones that will help get us through a very, very difficult year in agriculture and all over the world.

I thank my colleague for yielding me the time.

RECESS UNTIL 2:15

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:32 p.m., recessed until 2:16 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. COATS].

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF ANGELA RAISH

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, this has been cleared on both sides. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 272, which was submit-

ted to the Senate earlier by the leader in my behalf.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 272) recognizing the distinguished service of Angela Raish.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 272) with its preamble reads as follows:

S. RES. 272

Whereas Angela Raish retired from the United States Senate on July 31, 1998, after more than twenty-one years of distinguished service to the United States Senate, Senator Pete V. Domenici, and the people of New Mexico;

Whereas Angela combined exceptional professional and organizational skills, untiring initiative, and unlimited compassion to accomplish both major, and simply thoughtful, tasks for the Senator and his constituents;

Whereas Angela has always generously given of herself out of a genuine love and concern for others, without hesitation or expectation of reward;

Whereas Angela has had an impressive career beginning during World War II in the Navy Department, office of Admiral S.C. Hooper where she developed the professional and personal skills that she refined into her trademark standard of excellence;

Whereas in 1968, Angela worked for President Richard M. Nixon's Inaugural Committee and in 1972, she served as the Assistant to the Chairman, and received the gavel used to convene the Republican National Convention as a token of appreciation for a job well done from Gerald R. Ford, the Republican National Committee and Republican Convention Chairman;

Whereas Angela's endearing attitude and hard work earned the respect and admiration of Anne Armstrong and the staff at the White House in 1974 and 1975;

Whereas Angela has always balanced her public service with her private life and has been married to the self-described "luckiest man in the Navy," Bob Raish, since February 8, 1947;

Whereas, her colleagues always know they have a devoted friend and confidant;

Whereas Angela is known for her love of Italy, her pride in her ancestral home in Camogli, and her affection for Lake Maggiore;

Whereas Angela is "una donna eccezionale," (an exceptional woman); the Senator's vero "braccio destro" (his right hand helper), and "La Signora Aggiestutto per gli elettori" (Mrs. Fix-it for constituents);

Whereas Angela is a gracious hostess and accomplished cook who is going to pursue new culinary challenges in her retirement; and

Whereas all those whose lives are richer for having known Angela Raish will miss her deeply and send her warm wishes on her well-deserved retirement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the achievements of Angela Raish and her more than 21 years of service to the Senate and Senator Domenici be honored and celebrated;

(2) the love and affection that Angela's friends and colleagues share for her be recognized; and

(3) Angela's pride in work and home be recognized as the standard to which all should aspire.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, we have just adopted a resolution paying our respects, without any doubt in my mind, to one of the most wonderful women who has worked in the Senate, Angela Raish. She has worked in my office for 21 years. Many hundreds of people in the Senate and many thousands out in my State and around the Nation know her as one of the best women who has ever served in this institution. She served this Senator well, but in doing that, she also has helped literally hundreds of people who none of us are even aware of. We are going to pay tribute to her later in the week with an event here in the Senate, and there will be a lot of people who will come to say thank you to Angela.

I wanted to take with us to that event this resolution where the Senate recognized her 21-year effort. The resolution accurately depicts much about her life and what she has accomplished, the many outstanding jobs she has held, and obviously the longest tenure in my office working for the Senate. I thank the Senate for passing this resolution.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 513, S. Res. 193.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 193) designating September 13, 1998, as "National Children's Memorial Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 193) with its preamble reads as follows:

S. RES. 193

Whereas approximately 79,000 infants, children, teenagers, and young adults die each year in the United States;

Whereas the death of a child is one of the greatest tragedies suffered by a family; and

Whereas support and understanding are critical to the healing process of a bereaved family; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 13, 1998, as "National Children's Memorial Day"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation designating December 13, 1998, as "National Children's Memorial Day" and calls on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities in remembrance of infants, children, teenagers, and young adults who have died.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the Senate. I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate Calendar No. 440, S. 2237, the fiscal year 1999 Interior appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2237) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GORTON. I ask unanimous consent that Bruce Evans, Ginny James, Anne McInerney, Leif Fonnesebeck, Kevin Johnson, Kurt Dodd, and Carole Geagley of the Appropriations Committee staff; Chuck Berwick and Kari Vander Stoep of my personal staff; and Hank Kashdan, Mary Ellen Mueller, and Craig Leff, detailees with the Appropriations Committee, be granted privileges of the floor during consideration of S. 2237.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to bring before the Senate the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 1999. The bill provides \$13.4 billion in discretionary budget authority for agencies and programs under the subcommittee's jurisdiction, an increase of \$265 million above the FY 98 freeze level, but \$660 million less than the President's budget request.

As always, putting this bill together has been a great challenge. The subcommittee received more than 2,000 individual requests from Senators regarding particular projects or programs, the majority of which were requests for additions to the President's budget request, which I have already mentioned is well in excess of the amounts available to the Subcommittee. While Senator STEVENS has been as

generous with the Interior Subcommittee as I could reasonably expect him to be given the constraints of the discretionary spending caps, the subcommittee's allocation is such that the FY 1999 bill in large part continues programs at or near the current year level. There are significant, but modest, increases for a handful of high priority programs, but for the most part there are few surprises or dramatic new funding initiatives.

As Members consider whether particular programs in this bill have been treated fairly within the constraints of the subcommittee's allocation, I hope they will consider two factors. First, for the first time since Fiscal Year 1995, this bill does not mandate a sale of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to pay for the costs of operating the reserve. An oil sale at current price levels would be unwise to say the least. But the fact that this bill does not include an oil sale means that the Subcommittee had to find \$155 million for operation of the Reserve that was not included in last year's base. As a consequence, the increase in the Subcommittee's allocation is effectively only \$110 million above the freeze level.

The second factor of which I want my colleagues to be aware when evaluating this bill is the impact of increases in Federal pay, benefits and other fixed costs. The Interior bill as a whole is one of the most personnel-intensive of the appropriations bills, supporting tens of thousands of park rangers, foresters, Indian health professionals and other Federal workers. Each year the agencies funded in this bill must accommodate increases in pay and benefits for these workers, and similar cost increases over which the Subcommittee has no direct control. In FY 1999, these "uncontrollable costs" will amount to more than \$200 million.

Lest any of my colleagues feel these costs are attributable to a bloated bureaucracy, I note that Department of the Interior staffing in Washington, D.C. is 17% below its 1993 base—despite a significant expansion since that time in the number of parks, refuges, and other Interior programs, most of which have been authorized by Congress. This 17% reduction is the second greatest among all civilian cabinet agencies. While the Subcommittee continues to seek efficiencies and to terminate wasteful programs, yearly increases in pay and related costs for core Federal employees continue to consume most or all of any increases that the Subcommittee may receive in its allocation.

Having noted two of the major factors impacting funding levels in this year's bill, I want to highlight some priority programs where we were able to provide modest—but significant—increases. The bill includes a \$55 million increase for operation of the national park system, including increases over the current year level of \$18 million for park maintenance, \$15 million for special need parks, and \$10 million for an